

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been fighting with the Town of Hamden for many years regarding the deteriorating condition of the State Street Cemetery located in our town. Burials in this yard are document from April 7, 1790 to the present date of January 6, 2014. It contains the remains of five Revolutionary War soldiers and many more Civil War soldiers. The company that had the service contract damaged several ancient stones but has since walked away from the care of this yard. Several years ago I wrote to the Connecticut State Attorney General and the problem was solved by the maintenance company using liquid nails caulk to glue the stones back. Disgraceful! The Town of Hamden now states that they do not know who owns the cemetery therefore they will not set foot inside because of the liability issues.

As a member of the Connecticut Gravestone Network we have tried to get individual towns to care for these neglected sites. We have tried to be the watchdogs in our community for these sites. Most towns do not care because they receive very little revenue from these tax exempt properties.

An Act Concerning Neglected Cemeteries (Raised Bill No 5557) is certainly a step in the right direction but so much more needs to be done for us to protect these historic yards. We owe this much to the veterans who gave their lives in so many wars. I fully support the passing of this bill.